

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

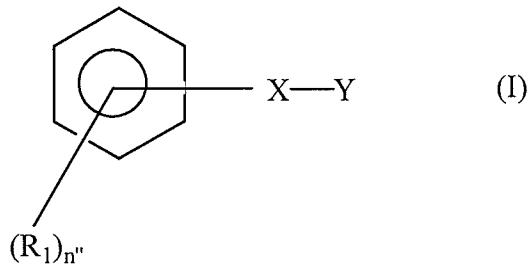
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1-25 (cancelled)

26. (new): A cleaning solution comprising, based on the total weight of the solution:

- more than 50% by weight of at least one lactone (component A); and
- 1 to 10% by weight of at least one surfactant compound (component B) having a HLB ranging from 8 to 15 and selected from the group consisting of compounds of formula:



wherein:

R₁ denotes a hydrocarbon group comprising from 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

n" is an integer from 1 to 5,

X denotes a valence link, -O-, -OCH₂, C=O or (CH₂)_k, k being an integer varying from 1 to 2;

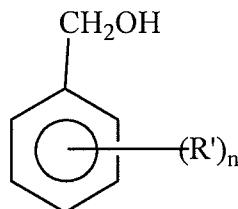
Y denotes (RO)_jH wherein j is an integer ranging from 2 to 40, and

R is a divalent hydrocarbon group,

and compounds of formula:

CH₃(CH₂)_l—O—(CH₂CH₂O)_m—H (II), wherein l is an integer from 6 to 13 and m is an integer from 3 to 15.

27. (new): the cleaning solution of claim 26, further defined as comprising, based on the total weight of the solution, at least 60% by weight of at least one lactone.
28. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 27, further defined as comprising, based on the total weight of the solution, at least 70% by weight of at least one lactone.
29. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 28, further defined as comprising, based on the total weight of the solution, at least 80% by weight of at least one lactone.
30. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 26, further comprising a component C of formula:



wherein

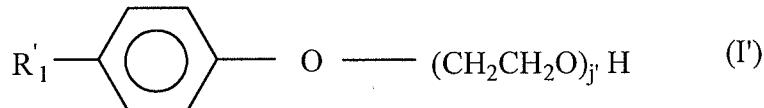
n denotes an integer from 0 to 5;

R' is an alkyl group or an alkoxy group-[O-Z]-_nH in which Z is a divalent alkyl group ;
and

n' is an integer from 0 to 10.

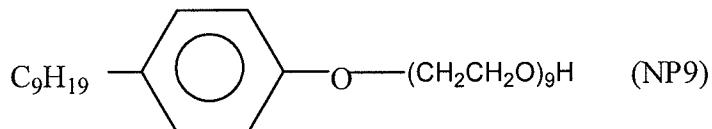
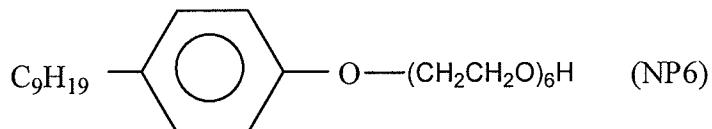
31. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 30, wherein n is 0 or 1.
32. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 30, wherein R' is an alkyl group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms.
33. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 30, further defined as comprising, based on the total weight of the solution, from 0.1 to 20% by weight of Component C.
34. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 30, further defined as comprising, based on the total weight of the solution, from 2 to 10% by weight of at least one benzyl alcohol of component C.

35. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 30, wherein component C is a substituted or unsubstituted benzyl alcohol.
36. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 30, wherein component C is benzyl alcohol.
37. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 26, wherein the hydrocarbon group R₁ comprises from 5 to 15 carbon atoms.
38. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 26, wherein the hydrocarbon group R₁ comprises from 7 to 15 carbon atoms.
39. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 26, wherein n" equals 1.
40. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 26, wherein j is an integer from 2 to 20.
41. (new): ~~The cleaning solution of claim 26, wherein j is an integer from 4 to 15.~~
42. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 26, wherein j is an integer from 6 to 12.
43. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 26, wherein the divalent hydrocarbon group R has 2 carbon atoms.
44. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 26, wherein the at least one surfactant (component B) has the formula:



wherein R'1 is a C₅-C₁₀ alkyl moiety and j' is an integer from 5 to 10.

45. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 44, wherein the at least one surfactant comprises:

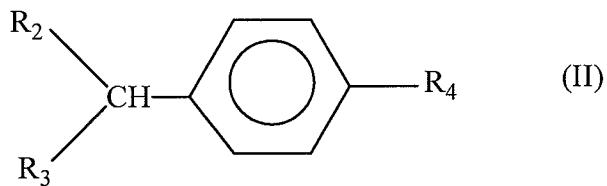


or a mixture thereof.

46. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 26, wherein the lactone is a 4 to 6-membered cyclic esters having an ester functional group $-C(O)-O-$ in its ring or derivative thereof.

47. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 46, wherein the at least one lactone is further defined as α -angelicalactone, β -propiolactone, γ -butyrolactone, γ -caprylolactone, γ -laurolactone, γ -palmitolactone, γ -stearolactone, γ -crotolactone, γ -valerolactone, δ -valerolactone, γ -caprolactone, δ -caprolactone, γ -gluconolactone.

48. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 26, further defined as comprising at least one additional compound (component D) having the formula:

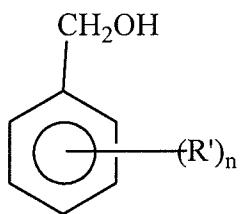


wherein R_2 and R_3 , being identical or different, are alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and R_4 is H or an alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

49. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 48, wherein the additional compound comprises up to 10% by weight of the cleaning solution.

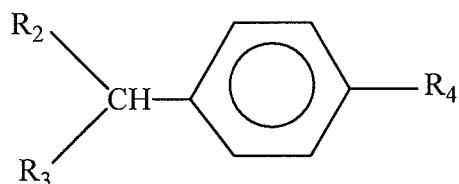
50. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 48, wherein the additional compound comprises up to 8% by weight of the cleaning solution by weight.

51. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 48, wherein the additional compound comprises up to 10% by weight of the cleaning solution by weight.
52. (new): The cleaning solution of claim 26, further defined as having a pH from 4 to 7.
53. (new): A process for cleaning an item soiled by organic materials, comprising dipping the soiled item into cleaning solution of claim 26.
54. (new): The cleaning process of claim 53, wherein the cleaning solution is at a temperature ranging from 40 to 80°C at the time of dipping.
55. (new): The cleaning process of claim 53, wherein the dipping time is 5 minutes or less.
56. (new): The cleaning process of claim 53, further comprising, after the dipping step of the soiled item into the cleaning solution, dipping the item into a basic aqueous solution comprising from 1 to 10% by weight of potassium hydroxide based on the total weight of the aqueous solution.
57. (new): The cleaning process of claim 53, wherein the item is soiled by a thermosetting material.
58. (new): The cleaning process of claim 53, wherein the item is made of mineral glass.
59. (new): The cleaning process of claim 53, wherein the item is a mold for optical lenses.
60. (new): The cleaning process of claim 53, wherein the optical lens is an ophthalmic lens.
61. (new): The cleaning process of claim 53, wherein the item has a progressive geometry surface.
62. (new): A cleaning solution consisting of, based on the total weight of the solution:
 - more than 50% by weight of at least one lactone;
 - 1 to 10% by weight of at least one surfactant compound having a HLB ranging from 8 to 15;
 - optionally, 0.1 to 20% by weight of a component of formula:



wherein n denotes an integer from 0 to 5, and R' is an alkyl group or an alkoxy group- $[\text{O-Z}]_{-\text{n}'}\text{H}$ in which Z is a divalent alkyl group and n' is an integer from 0 to 10, and

- optionally, up to 10% by weight of a component of formula:



wherein R_2 and R_3 , being identical or different, are alkyl groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms and R_4 is H or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.